

# 2009 Montana Hunting Regulations

## Bison



These regulations and quotas are adopted under the authority granted to the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission in MCA 87-1-301, and are valid March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010. These regulations were adopted by the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on August 13, 2009. The Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission reserves the authority to amend the seasons, limits and regulations herein if deemed necessary for wildlife management purposes. Joe Maurier, Director.

State and Federal laws, Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or disability. Anyone believing he or she has been discriminated against (as described above) in any Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) program, activity, or facility may write to FWP Personnel Office, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or the office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

### Licensing

- A hunter may hold only one bison license.
  - Application process:
    - Applicants must possess a valid 2009 conservation license to apply.
    - Applications must be accompanied by a \$5 nonrefundable drawing fee.
    - Applicants may apply for a 1st and 2nd choice.
      - Either-sex licenses must only be a 1st choice.
      - Cow/calf license application may only be a 2nd choice. Note - a cow/calf hunter list will be created by a random drawing of second choice applicants. See "Bison License Quota" below.
  - Hunters must have applied for a bison license:
    - online at [fwp.mt.gov/Online Services/Licenses & Applications](http://fwp.mt.gov/Online%20Services/Licenses%20&%20Applications), no later than 11:45 p.m. MDT on Friday, May 1, 2009 or
    - over-the-counter at any FWP Regional Office, FWP Area Office, and/or the Helena Headquarters by 5 p.m. MDT on Friday, May 1, 2009, or
    - by mail. Applications were available at all FWP license providers or may have been downloaded from the FWP website at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov). Applications must have been received at FWP Helena Headquarters by 5 p.m. MDT on Friday, May 1, 2009.
  - General public bison licenses are allotted through a random drawing.
  - Successful either-sex bison license applicants and potential (cow/calf) license holders:
    - will be mailed a hunter orientation DVD and hunters are encouraged to view it before hunting;
    - must purchase a bison license prior to hunting. Bison licenses are available only from any FWP Regional Office, FWP Area Office, and/or the Helena Headquarters.
    - will be required to possess or purchase a hunter access enhancement fee before hunting.
- | License cost:                 | Resident | Nonresident |
|-------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Conservation                  | \$8      | \$10        |
| Bison License                 | \$125    | \$750       |
| Hunter Access Enhancement Fee | \$2      | \$10        |
- State-issued Tribal licenses will be issued free-of-charge only from any FWP Regional Office, FWP Area Office, and/or the Helena Headquarters.

### Bison License Quota

- A total of 44 either-sex State-issued licenses will be awarded.
- Up to 100 cow/calf State-issued licenses MAY be incrementally

awarded depending upon bison migration into individual hunting districts.

- If more than 60 bison are present in open hunting areas, cow/calf licenses may be activated.
- The cow/calf hunter list will be created from the drawing of second choice applicants. If a cow/calf hunt is activated based upon bison migration, cow/calf licenses will be issued to hunters incrementally in sequence drawn.
- No more than 25 combined either-sex and cow/calf bison State-issued licensed hunters may be active during any one hunting time period.
- Nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the region's license quota.
- Of the 44 either-sex State-issued licenses, 16 will be awarded to Tribal members in accordance with MCA 87-2-731.
  - Two either-sex licenses will be issued to each Montana Tribe. Licenses issued to an individual Montana Tribe will be for the same randomly drawn hunting district and time period.
  - Any licenses unclaimed after November 1 will be reallocated according to FWP policy.
- In addition to the 44 either-sex State-issued licenses and the potential 100 cow/calf State-issued licenses, Tribal treaty bison hunting by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Nez Perce Tribe may occur concurrently with state bison hunting.

### General Regulations AND Methods and Means of Hunting

- Hunting is restricted to individuals with licenses issued via a drawing process similar to that employed for other special licenses issued by FWP or as designated by Tribal authority. All licenses are non-transferable.
- General regulations as listed in the 2009 Big Game Deer/Elk/Antelope hunting regulations shall govern the 2009 bison season for all license holders.
- The season is November 15, 2009 through February 15, 2010.
  - There are two hunting districts, each with multiple time periods as listed below.
  - Bison hunt information is available during hunt periods by calling 1-406-994-5700 ext. 5.

#### ----- HD 385 ----- West Yellowstone Portion

*Note: One cow/calf hunter list will be created by a random drawing of all second choice applicants for HD385. Up to a total of 46 cow/calf licenses for HD385 may be issued.*

- 385-00: 6 licenses  
• Nov 15 - Dec 31 - Either-sex Bison.
- 385-01: 10 licenses  
• Jan 01 - Jan 22 - Either-sex Bison.
- 385-02: 10 licenses  
• Jan 23 - Feb 15 - Either-sex Bison.
- 385-10: Second Choice only. See "Note" above.  
• Nov 15 - Feb 15 - Cow/calf Bison.

#### ----- HD 395 ----- Eagle Creek Portion (Eagle Creek/Bear Creek Drainage of the Gardiner Basin in the North Boundary Area)

*Note: One cow/calf hunter list will be created by a random drawing of all second choice applicants for HD395. Up to a total of 54 cow/calf licenses for HD395 may be issued.*

- 395-00: 6 licenses  
• Nov 15 - Dec 31 - Either-sex Bison.
- 395-01: 6 licenses  
• Jan 01 - Jan 22 - Either-sex Bison.
- 395-02: 6 licenses  
• Jan 23 - Feb 15 - Either-sex Bison.
- 395-10: Second Choice only. See "Note" above.  
• Nov 15 - Feb 15 - Cow/calf Bison.

- The only means of taking allowed are center-fire rifles. Muzzleloading black powder rifles and/or archery equipment are not permitted.
- Rifles are restricted to center-fire, 150 grain or larger bullet.
- Hunting is allowed on public land. Hunting is also allowed on private land with landowner permission.
- Bison licenses are valid in:
  - HD 385 – Eagle Creek/Bear Creek drainage of the Gardiner Basin in the North Boundary area AND portions of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness north of Yellowstone National Park, (including the upper portions of the Hellroaring and Slough Creek drainages). See map, legal descriptions and hunting closures in these regulations.
  - HD 395 – Public land with no cattle allotments in the Cabin Creek Recreation and Wildlife Management Area, the Monument Mountain Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, and the upper Gallatin River drainage south of the mouth of Taylor Fork, and the West Yellowstone Area. See map, legal descriptions and hunting closures in these regulations.
  - Closure area to protect eagle-nesting sites on National Forest System Lands on Horse Butte Peninsula as posted from Dec. 1 to Aug. 15.
- To protect public safety and minimize traffic obstructions, no bison hunting is allowed within 100 yards of major highways.
- Hunting on national forest lands must follow restrictions in USFS order 36 CFR 261.10 (d) (firearm discharges are prohibited within 150 yards of residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area or across a forest service road or body of water).
- License quotas, hunting district boundaries, and season structure can be modified by FWP Commission authority.
- Hunting hours authorized for the taking of big game animals begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. See official 2009 Sunrise-Sunset Tables in these regulations.
- As adopted under SB395 (MCA 87-2-730) FWP shall not provide actual physical location of wild bison other than the prescribed hunting district where the animal may be taken.
- Hunting is subject to emergency closure in the event it becomes necessary to allow for hazing under the Interagency Bison Management Plan.
- Successful either-sex bison license applicants and potential (cow/calf) license holders will be mailed a hunter orientation DVD and hunters are encouraged to view it before hunting;
- Hunting shall be only by foot or horseback.
- It is unlawful to possess or transport the fetus or reproductive tissues of a bison away from the kill site. This shall not include specifically minimized tissues naturally attached to the carcass or a portion of the carcass as necessary for evidence of sex as follows:
  - Male: head with horns or penis.
  - Female: head with horns or vulva.

## Information and Recommendations

- Bison can achieve a live weight of up to 2,000 pounds, and can be very difficult for the average person to field dress alone. Participants should bring several people with them, or hire an outfitter to assist with the field dressing and handling of their bison. If participants plan to field dress and load their own animal, axes, knives, saws, and block and tackle may be necessary.
- Due to the bison's immense size and thick hide, palatable meat may spoil quickly without immediate and proper care. It is recommended that bison be skinned and quartered within five hours of the kill. The hide should not be left on the bison overnight, even if it is hanging.

## Brucellosis

- Bison in Yellowstone National Park carry bacteria that cause a disease known as brucellosis or bang's disease. The disease-causing bacteria can be transmitted from bison to cattle. If domestic cattle are infected, there are negative effects to individual cattle producers in the form of a loss of production, loss of markets, and costly preventative measures, including vaccination. Brucellosis in Yellowstone National Park bison is one of the primary reasons that attempts are being made to control bison in Montana.
- Brucellosis in bison is caused by a bacterium that can also infect humans. In humans, brucellosis is called undulant fever.

Symptoms include intermittent fever, chills, night sweats, body aches, poor appetite and weakness. If undulant fever is treated early, it is fairly easy to cure. However, if the disease reaches a chronic stage, treatment is difficult.

- In bison, the bacteria is concentrated in the lymph nodes, reproductive organs and the udder. Cooking destroys bacteria that may be present in the meat. Thus, when thoroughly cooked, the meat is safe to eat. You can protect yourself by following these handling tips:
  - Consider every bison to be potentially infected. The results of blood tests show that about 50 percent of the bison are exposed to brucellosis.
  - Always wear protective gloves when dressing carcasses or handling viscera.
  - Avoid contact with milk or material from the reproductive tract.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth until you have scrubbed after handling the animal.
  - Individuals with open sores or cuts on their hands should be especially careful.
  - Discard organ meats.
  - Thoroughly cook all meat consumed.

## Bison Hunt Legal Descriptions

The following areas are open to bison hunting for the 2009 season.

Note: No hunting within the city limits of West Yellowstone, no hunting within the fenced boundary of the West Yellowstone airport and closure area to protect eagle-nesting sites on National Forest System Lands on Horse Butte Peninsula as posted from Dec. 1 to Aug. 15.

### HUNTING DISTRICT 385:

#### **West Yellowstone Portion –**

Beginning at the intersection of Grayling Creek and the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, then south along the Park boundary to its intersection with the south section line of Section 34, T13S, R5E (1/4 mile south of West Yellowstone), then west along said section line to its intersection with USFS Road 1700 (in the southwest corner of said section), then north and west along said road to its intersection with the South Fork of the Madison River, then northwesterly along the east bank of the South Fork of the Madison River to its confluence with Hebgen Lake, then northwest along a straight line across said Lake to the tip of Edwards Peninsula, then northerly along the west shore of the Horse Butte Peninsula to The Narrows, then northwest along a straight line across The Narrows to the Lakeview Resort, then northeasterly along the private land/USFS boundary to Red Canyon Creek, then north up Red Canyon Creek to the mouth of Coal Canyon Creek, then up Coal Canyon Creek to the top of Graycroft Ridge, then southeasterly to the high point of Graycroft Ridge, then Northeasterly to Johnson Creek outlet at Johnson Lake, then southeast down Johnson Creek to its intersection with Little Teepee Creek Trail (#90), then south along said trail to its intersection with the Whits Lake Road, then northeasterly along said road to the Whits Lake trailhead, then southeasterly down the Whits Lake outlet stream to its confluence with Grayling Creek, then easterly up Grayling Creek to its intersection with the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, the point of beginning.

#### **AND**

**Cabin Creek Portion (Public land with no cattle allotments in the Cabin Creek Recreation and Wildlife Management Area, the Monument Mountain Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, and the upper Gallatin River drainage south of the mouth of Taylor Fork)**

– Beginning at the junction of U.S. Hwy 191 and the road leading to the trailhead for U.S.F.S. Trail 68 located between the mouth of Taylor Fork and Sage Creek, then southeasterly up the Taylor Fork/Sage Creek divide and the Taylor Fork/Beaver and Cabin Creeks divide to the west boundary of the Cabin Creek Recreation and Wildlife Management Area, to include those portions of said area lying south of the above description and including all of the Monument Mountain Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. The area open to hunting also includes the portion of the Gallatin drainage lying east of the Gallatin

River and from Levinsky Ridge south to Yellowstone National Park.

## HUNTING DISTRICT 395:

### Eagle Creek Portion (Eagle Creek/Bear Creek Drainage of the Gardiner Basin in the North Boundary Area) –

Beginning at the boundary intersection of Yellowstone National Park and the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness just east of Gardiner, then northerly and westerly along said Wilderness boundary to hydrologic divide between Little Trail Creek and Maiden Basin, then south down said divide to Little Trail Creek, then west down said Creek to U.S. Hwy 89, then southeasterly up said Hwy to the Yellowstone National Park boundary, then east along said boundary to its intersection with the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness boundary, the point of beginning.

Note: Exception 1, HD 385 Hunting Closure -- Beginning at the Junction of U.S. Hwy 89 and Little Trail Creek, then up Little Trail Creek to the posted line (approx. 1/2 mile above U.S. Hwy 89), then southeasterly along said line to the Travertine-Trail Creek Road, then easterly along said road to its intersection with the Gardiner-Jardine Road, then northeasterly along said road to Eagle Creek, then southerly down said creek to the YNP Boundary, then west along said boundary to its intersection with U.S. Hwy 89, then northwesterly along said Hwy to its intersection with Little Trail Creek, the point of beginning.

## AND

### Absaroka-Beartooth Portion (Wilderness North of Yellowstone National Park including the upper portions of the Hellroaring and Slough Creek drainages) –

The entire Hellroaring, Buffalo Fork, and Slough creeks drainages north of Yellowstone National Park.

## 2009 Sunrise-Sunset Tables for Determining Hunting Hours

These tables, including adjustments for daylight savings time, are the official sunrise-sunset tables adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission for hunting in Montana. Authorized hunting hours for the taking of bison begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. (Do not utilize from other sources).

### ZONE 2

**INCLUDES: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Choteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole Counties.**

|     | Nov  |      | Dec  |      | Jan  |      | Feb  |      |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|     | Rise | Set  | Rise | Set  | Rise | Set  | Rise | Set  |
| Day | A.M. | P.M. | A.M. | P.M. | A.M. | P.M. | A.M. | P.M. |
| 01  | 7:10 | 5:12 | 7:52 | 4:42 | 8:12 | 4:51 | 7:52 | 5:32 |
| 02  | 7:12 | 5:11 | 7:53 | 4:42 | 8:12 | 4:52 | 7:51 | 5:34 |
| 03  | 7:13 | 5:09 | 7:54 | 4:42 | 8:12 | 4:53 | 7:49 | 5:35 |
| 04  | 7:15 | 5:08 | 7:55 | 4:41 | 8:12 | 4:54 | 7:48 | 5:37 |
| 05  | 7:16 | 5:07 | 7:57 | 4:41 | 8:12 | 4:55 | 7:47 | 5:38 |
| 06  | 7:18 | 5:05 | 7:58 | 4:41 | 8:12 | 4:57 | 7:45 | 5:40 |
| 07  | 7:19 | 5:04 | 7:59 | 4:41 | 8:12 | 4:58 | 7:44 | 5:41 |
| 08  | 7:21 | 5:03 | 8:00 | 4:41 | 8:11 | 4:59 | 7:42 | 5:43 |
| 09  | 7:22 | 5:01 | 8:01 | 4:41 | 8:11 | 5:00 | 7:41 | 5:44 |
| 10  | 7:24 | 5:00 | 8:02 | 4:41 | 8:11 | 5:01 | 7:39 | 5:46 |
| 11  | 7:25 | 4:59 | 8:02 | 4:41 | 8:10 | 5:02 | 7:38 | 5:47 |
| 12  | 7:26 | 4:58 | 8:03 | 4:41 | 8:10 | 5:04 | 7:36 | 5:49 |
| 13  | 7:28 | 4:57 | 8:04 | 4:41 | 8:09 | 5:05 | 7:35 | 5:50 |
| 14  | 7:29 | 4:55 | 8:05 | 4:41 | 8:09 | 5:06 | 7:33 | 5:52 |
| 15  | 7:31 | 4:54 | 8:06 | 4:41 | 8:08 | 5:08 | 7:32 | 5:53 |
| 16  | 7:32 | 4:53 | 8:06 | 4:41 | 8:07 | 5:09 | 7:30 | 5:55 |
| 17  | 7:34 | 4:52 | 8:07 | 4:42 | 8:07 | 5:10 | 7:28 | 5:56 |
| 18  | 7:35 | 4:51 | 8:08 | 4:42 | 8:06 | 5:12 | 7:27 | 5:58 |
| 19  | 7:36 | 4:50 | 8:08 | 4:42 | 8:05 | 5:13 | 7:25 | 5:59 |
| 20  | 7:38 | 4:50 | 8:09 | 4:43 | 8:04 | 5:14 | 7:23 | 6:01 |
| 21  | 7:39 | 4:49 | 8:10 | 4:43 | 8:04 | 5:16 | 7:22 | 6:02 |
| 22  | 7:41 | 4:48 | 8:10 | 4:44 | 8:03 | 5:17 | 7:20 | 6:04 |
| 23  | 7:42 | 4:47 | 8:10 | 4:44 | 8:02 | 5:19 | 7:18 | 6:05 |
| 24  | 7:43 | 4:46 | 8:11 | 4:45 | 8:01 | 5:20 | 7:16 | 6:07 |
| 25  | 7:45 | 4:46 | 8:11 | 4:46 | 8:00 | 5:22 | 7:15 | 6:08 |
| 26  | 7:46 | 4:45 | 8:11 | 4:46 | 7:59 | 5:23 | 7:13 | 6:10 |
| 27  | 7:47 | 4:44 | 8:12 | 4:47 | 7:58 | 5:25 | 7:11 | 6:11 |
| 28  | 7:48 | 4:44 | 8:12 | 4:48 | 7:57 | 5:26 | 7:09 | 6:13 |
| 29  | 7:50 | 4:43 | 8:12 | 4:49 | 7:55 | 5:28 |      |      |
| 30  | 7:51 | 4:43 | 8:12 | 4:50 | 7:54 | 5:29 |      |      |
| 31  | 8:12 | 4:51 | 7:53 | 5:31 |      |      |      |      |

## Contacts

Bison hunt information is available during hunt periods by calling 1-406-994-5700 ext. 5.

### Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks State Headquarters

1420 East 6th Avenue, PO Box 200701,  
Helena, MT 59620-0701 .....406-444-2535

Hunter Education.....406-444-3188  
Wildlife Division .....406-444-2612  
Enforcement Division.....406-444-2452  
Parks Division (Montana State Parks).....406-444-3750  
Deer, elk, antelope, moose, bighorn sheep,  
mountain goat, and all special drawings .....406-444-2950  
Resident and nonresident licensing for  
fishing, upland game birds, migratory birds,  
black bear, and mountain lion .....406-444-2535  
Telephone Device for the Deaf .....406-444-1200

### Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters



#### REGION 1

490 N Meridian Rd  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 752-5501

LEWISTOWN Area Res  
Office (LARO)  
215 W Aztec Dr  
PO Box 938  
Lewistown, MT 59457  
(406) 538-4658

#### REGION 2

3201 Spurgin Rd  
Missoula, MT 59804  
(406) 542-5500

#### REGION 3

1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59718-5496  
(406) 994-4042

#### REGION 5

2300 Lake Elmo Dr  
Billings, MT 59105  
(406) 247-2940

HELENA Area Res Office  
(HARO)  
930 Custer Ave W  
Helena, MT 59620  
(406) 495-3260

REGION 6  
54078 US Hwy 2 E  
Glasgow, MT 59230  
(406) 228-3700

BUTTE Area Res Office  
(BARO)  
1820 Meadowlark Ln  
Butte, MT 59701  
(406) 494-1953

HAVRE Area Res Office  
(HvARO)  
2165 Hwy 2 E  
Havre, MT 59501  
(406) 265-6177

#### REGION 4

4600 Giant Springs Rd  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
(406) 454-5840

#### REGION 7

352 I-94 Business Loop  
PO Box 1630  
Miles City, MT 59301  
(406) 234-0900

## Contacts Outside Fish, Wildlife & Parks

### Montana State Agencies

Agriculture  
**406-444-3144**  
Guides & Outfitters  
**406-841-2373**  
Livestock  
**406-444-7323**  
State Lands  
**406-444-2074**  
Tourism  
**406-841-2795**

### Federal Agencies

US Department of  
Interior  
**202-208-3100**  
US Fish & Wildlife  
Service  
**406-449-5225**

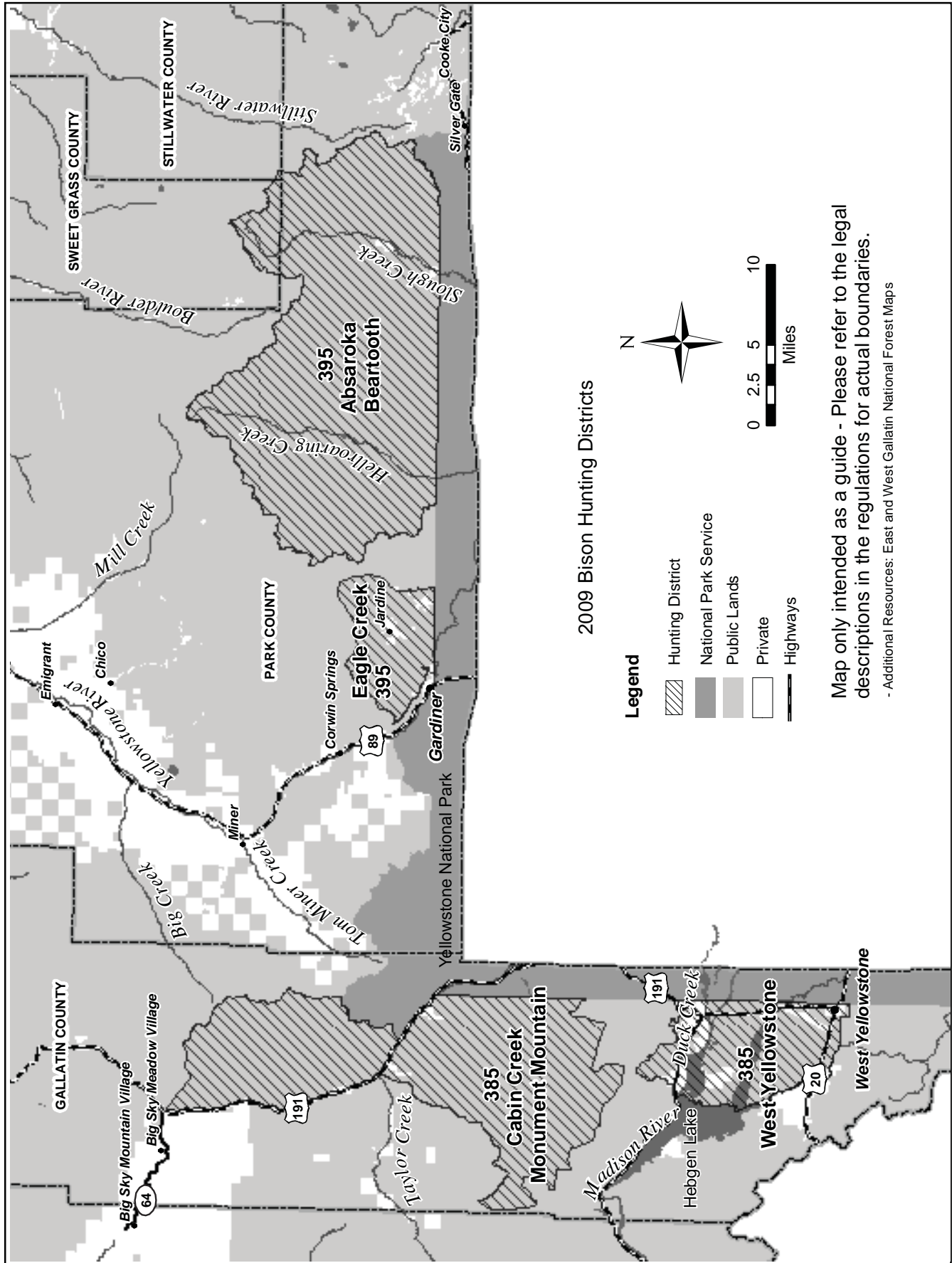
### Land Maps

Bureau of Land Management  
**406-896-5000**  
Topographical (USGS)  
**888-275-8747**

### Tribal Lands

Blackfeet Reservation  
**406-338-7276**  
Crow Reservation  
**406-638-2601**  
Flathead Reservation  
**406-675-2700**  
Fort Belknap  
**406-353-2205**  
Fort Peck Reservation  
**406-768-5305**  
Northern Cheyenne Reservation  
**406-477-8844**  
Rocky Boy Reservation  
**406-395-4207**





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Wildlife & Parks**  
fwp.mt.gov